



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (213) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XII
No. 11

MAR 19, 1990

CAMPAIGN 1990: 7 INCUMBENTS UNDER SIEGE.

Editor's note: CALPEEK has identified one U.S. Congressman and six CA Assemblymembers who face what most insiders consider to be "serious" PRIMARY opposition. Serious is defined as an opponent(s) who has area-wide name ID and/or financial resources. Of the seven incumbents under siege, 5 are from the SAN DIEGO area. Here is CALPEEK's brief report & analysis...

● 44th C.D. - As CALPEEK reported last week, U.S. Rep. Jim Bates(D-San Diego) ended up with a Demo primary challenge from attorney Bryon Georgiou, ex legal affairs advisor to Gov. Jerry Brown. Georgiou had been running in the 78th A.D. special election to fill Lucy Killea's seat, but dropped out at the last minute to challenge Bates. When he switched, Georgiou lost most of his campaign staff and his campaign consultant, Directions of Sacto. The setback is temporary and Georgiou is considered an EXCELLENT fundraiser. Joe Costello is handling Georgiou's daily campaign operation...

...As for Bates, he's rounding up endorsements right and left, including key House leadership types as well as regular Demos from San Diego, who seem to be rallying to his side. Bates just had an event where 400 plus turned out. Nevertheless, Bates is considered vulnerable because of charges that he sexually harassed some of his female staffers. It's an old charge dating back to 1988, but it was fully investigated and reported by the House Ethics Committee. The report itself doesn't help Bates, which is why this primary should be watched. And it could get NASTY...

● 75th A.D. - GOP Assemblywoman Sunny Mojonnier(San Diego) has 3 Republican primary challengers: Poway School Bd. member Stan Rodkin; businesswoman Ronnie Delaney;

and small businessowner Fay McGrath. The key issue could be ETHICS. Mojonnier was fined \$13,200 for double-billing the State and her campaign fund for trips, clothes and beauty treatments. How much trouble is she in? DEEP TROUBLE, according to several San Diego sources. She'd better wake up or she'll be ousted...

● 76th A.D. - New GOP Assemblywoman Tricia Hunter of Bonita got real lucky. Poway School Bd. member Ned Kohler was the kind of candidate who could have given Hunter a rough time. Kohler is PRO-LIFE, conservative and a banking exec., but he did NOT file. Instead, Hunter will face Connie Youngkin of San Diego, described as a leader for Operation Rescue, the hardline anti-abortion group. Bottomline: PRO-CHOICE Hunter should survive, but she won't have cross-over Demos to help this time...

● 79th A.D. - Demo Assemblyman Peter Chacon of San Diego was first elected to this seat in 1970. He wanted to retire a few years back, but Speaker Willie Brown talked him out of it. He is a strong PRO-LIFE Demo. This year he is being challenged by former San Diego Councilwoman Celia Ballesteros, a PRO-CHOICE Demo who has retained consultant Pat Bond. This race looks pretty good, because Ballesteros can raise money and she has good name ID. In addition, Chacon MAY BE vulnerable. He now admits living outside the district. And he doesn't spend much time down in San Diego these days. Bottomline: If Ballesteros can effectively prove Chacon has lost touch, she has a good shot at the upset...

● 80th A.D. - For the first time since 1982, Demo Assemblyman Steve Peace of Chula Vista finds himself with two Demo rivals - attorney Robert Garcia and attorney Darrel

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Vandeveld. Of the two, Vandeveld is considered the most serious because his dad is president of Local 135 of United Food & Commercial Workers(UFCW). But just this past week the L.A. Times broke a story that was VERY damaging to Vandeveld. The story concerns optometrists who wanted to do business with union workers. In order to get the union business, optometrists were asked to donate \$500 to Vandeveld's campaign, according to the story. Vandeveld's father denies any wrongdoing, but the allegations are now being probed by the FPPC and by the State Bd. of Optometry. Bottomline: Peace should win, but the race is worth watching for now...

- 37th A.D. - GOP Assemblywoman Cathie Wright of Simi Valley faces a tough primary challenge from Hunt Braly, a top aide to State Sen. Ed Davis(R-Valencia). For those with short memories, Davis and Wright are arch enemies, so this contest should be watched closely. It's not going to be an easy battle for Braly, but some CALPEEK sources think Wright could be vulnerable...

- 70th A.D. - GOP Assemblyman Gil Ferguson of Newport Beach is being challenged by PA executive Phyllis Badham, daughter of ex U.S. Rep. Bob Badham of Orange Co. These two Republicans are about as opposite as you can get. Ferguson is a hardline conservative, who has a miserable environmental record and is a staunch PRO-LIFE supporter. He's also pushing for membership in Orange Co.'s "homophobic duo club" of Dornan and Dannemeyer. Ferguson wants to make it a trio. Badham is bright, a traditional conservative in the mold of Pete Wilson and is PRO-CHOICE. In addition, it is felt Ferguson might be vulnerable on ETHICS. Bottomline: even GOP types in Orange Co. who are sympathetic with Badham think it will take more than just money to beat Ferguson. She will need lots of LUCK...

...Next week: The open races with NO incumbents. Stay tuned...

OAKLAND CANDIDATES' FORUM SET FOR MAR. 22.

The Commonwealth Club of CA has set Mar. 22 for a debate/forum among the candidates running for Mayor of Oakland. Dinner 6 p.m., program 7 - 8:30 p.m., Regency Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Oakland. For info, (415)543-3353...

CAMPAIGN 1990: CALIF. COUNTY SUPERVISORS.

Editor's note: CALPEEK made a quick check among Calif.'s bigger counties to see which supervisors have potentially tough races. CALPEEK also checked the retirement status of supervisors. Here is a brief overview. CALPEEK will review the hotter contests in more depth later on...

- LOS ANGELES - It's not too often that supervisors retire in the State's largest county and when they do it's BIG news. And so it was when veteran Sup. Pete Schabarum did not file for reelection. As CALPEEK approached deadline, a number of people had returned papers, but sources believe there are only 3 candidates with the ability to mount credible campaigns. They are former U.S. Rep. Jim Lloyd, a former Demo now a GOPer; L.A. Co. Superior Court Judge Gregory O'Brien; and Schabarum's asst. chief deputy Sarah Flores. Although Flores would seem like a natural to replace her boss, sources believe Schabarum will support O'Brien. Whomever is elected, that person is sure to be KINDER & GENTLER than the combative Schabarum...

- SANTA CLARA - The big news is that incumbent Suzanne Wilson is stepping down and three fairly solid contenders are battling to replace her. They are retired Santa Clara Sheriff Bob Winter (sometimes called "Cowboy Bob"); San Jose School Bd. member Mike Honda; and Carl Guardeno, former chief of staff to Assemblyman Rusty Areias(D-Los Banos). Winter has good name ID, but he is also on Sup. Wilson's enemy list. She has called him a "double dipping quitter," a reference to when he resigned his office in a major dispute with the Board over the operation of the county's jail system...

...Honda, who is the handpicked successor of Wilson, is considered the early leader. And he has strong backing from the county's Asian community. Consultant Richard Ross is handling part of the campaign. Guardeno's campaign is being run by the new firm of Whitehurst & Nelson - that's John Whitehurst from Clint Reilly's operation. Guardeno is from the southern part of the county and Assemblyman Areias is pushing very hard for his former C-O-S...

...Sup. Rod J. Diridon is also up for reelection, but has only light opposition...

• ORANGE - Supes Don Roth and Thomas Reilly are considered heavy favorites to win new terms. But Sup. Harriett Wieder has 4 opponents and is considered to be in trouble. Her main rival is Westminster Councilwoman Joy Neugebauer. Wieder has hired consultant Allan Hoffenblum to run her campaign...

• SAN MATEO - Both Sups. Anna Eshoo and Tom Huening (author of Prop. 119) are running unopposed...

• ALAMEDA - County Sup. Don Perata has no opponent, while Charles Santana has light opposition. However, appointed Sup. Warren Widener, who took the late John George's spot on the board last year, is under siege. His major opponent is Keith Carson, an AA to U.S. Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Oakland), who is a power in East Bay politics. The Raider's deal could emerge as an issue because it isn't all that popular, especially not in some parts of Oakland. Widener is a supporter of the Raider deal...

• CONTRA COSTA - Both Sups. Tom Powers and Sunne McPeak are running for reelection. Powers is unopposed, but McPeak has drawn two opponents: Alameda Co. Sheriff's Dep. Ron Eggars; and Mt. Diablo Hospital Bd. member Grace Ellis. McPeak ought to win another term...

• SANTA BARBARA - Incumbent Sup. Tom Rogers has drawn one opponent, not considered serious, but Sup. Toru Myoshi has three rivals and could have some problems. The challengers include former appointed Sup. Mike Stoker; Santa Maria Councilman Thomas Urbanske; and J. Stephen Jerger...

• KERN - Bd. Chairperson Patricia Larwood is running unopposed, while Sup. Ben Austin has two opponents, but they are not considered a serious threat...

• FRESNO - Sup. Deran Koligian has two rivals: businessman Freddie Aske and Firebaugh Councilman Clyde Fannon. And Sup. A. Vernon Conrad has 3 challengers: educator Dirk Van Gelder; Selma Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Lujan; and 4-H specialist Gabe Terronez...

• SAN BERNARDINO - Sup. Jon Mikels is a heavy favorite to beat back challenger Brad Sheets, a former aide to ex Sup. Cal McEl-

wain. But the other supervisor who is up, Larry Walker, has his hands full with three rivals: Ontario Councilman Beecher Medlin, Chino Councilman Al Yankey and retired law officer Louis Moreno...

• SAN DIEGO - Incumbent Sup. John MacDonald is running unopposed, but Sup. Leon Williams has drawn two challengers: ex Navy officer Willie Blair, who is a city hall staffer; and former S.D. Councilman Mike Schaeffer. Williams is the favorite, but the contest should be watched...

CAMPAIGN 1990: CA BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE.
Editor's note: Here is an update on ballot measure/campaign activity. The deadline for qualifying measures for November is June 28th...

• "Children's Services. Appropriations. Surtaxes," is the official title of a constitutional amendment to provide funding for children's health and care services. The proponent is political consultant Bill Zimmerman (213)451-2522. He has a 150-day circulation period, meaning his official deadline is July 23. But to make the November ballot, the deadline is June 28...

• "Timber Harvesting. Forestry Program. Bond Act," is the official title of a bond measure initiative that would authorize the issuance of \$300 million to fund a program for loans and grants to certain timber owners, public entities for forest and park restoration and urban forestry projects. The proponent is Wesley Higbie, who can be reached at the Timber Assn. of CA at (916) 444-6592...

• Not to be confused with the above is "Forestry Program. Timber Harvesting. Bond Act." The sponsor is George Craig of Oakland, who can be contacted through an L.A. phone number (213)458-1405. If approved, this measure could authorize \$300 million in GO bonds to support a loan/grant program...

• A fifth (yes, there are 2 more already in circulation) timber bond act, "Forest Protection. Timber Harvesting. Bond Act," has also been given the okay to collect 372,178 signatures by July 26. The proponent for this \$742 million bond act is Thomas Lippe of S.F. (415)495-2800...

57th CRA CONFAB SET FOR SAN DIEGO MAR. 30.
Calif.'s largest grassroots GOP organization, the CA Republican Assembly, will hold its 57th annual convention Mar. 30 to Apr. 1 at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego. About 400 delegates are expected and unlike the CA Republican Party convention (which ran Mar. 9-11), the CRA as an organization does make official endorsements, if a candidate can capture a 2/3rds vote. The big battles at the CRA convention will be for LG and State Treasurer, with side shows for Insurance Commissioner and perhaps Secretary of State. Rick Staats, a rep for State Sen. John Doolittle(R-Roseville), is the only one running for CRA president - as CALPEEK went to press...

U.S. REP. BROWN GETS A TOUGH GOP OPPONENT.
In a surprise move, popular San Bernardino County Sup. Robert Hammock(R) filed to run against equally popular U.S. Rep. George Brown Jr.(D-Colton). The 36th C.D. is turning more Republican each year, but Brown is a proven vote getter. Of course it helps to run against guys like John Paul Stark. Hammock is very solid and sources tell CALPEEK that the RCCC may make this race one of the top targets in the U.S. And the Hammock candidacy might be helpful to GOP Assemblyman Chuck Bader of Ontario, who is seeking to oust incumbent Demo State Sen. Ruben Ayala of San Berdu this November...

CARAL ASKS FOR PROBE OF VOTER INFO LEAGUE.
Remember the 31st S.D. special a month or so ago, where GOP Assemblyman Frank Hill just got by fellow conservative Assemblyman Gil Ferguson? Well now the CA Abortion Rights Action League(CARAL) is asking the FPPC, the AG and the DAs of Orange and L.A. County to investigate the Voter Information League, based in Sacto. It's the group which sent out a mailing on behalf of Demo candidate Janice Graham. The mailing was aimed at keeping Demos from crossing over to vote for PRO-CHOICE Republican Ron Isles. The tactic worked, but CARAL thinks the Voter Information League may have violated several specific campaign reporting rules. That's why CARAL wants this outfit investigated...

POLL SHOWS VOTERS STILL LOVE DEATH PENALTY.
The Calif. Poll, which has been tracking the public's attitude toward the DEATH PENALTY since 1956, has a new poll on this hot

topic which shows 77% in favor, 15% against and 8% with no opinion. While this is still a very high number in favor of the ultimate punishment, the February 1990 data is DOWN from a high of 83% in 1986, the last time the Calif. Poll questioned voters on this subject. That 1986 poll was taken during the election year that former Calif. Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird faced voters. For those who like to keep track of things, Robert Harris is due to sniff cyanide in San Q's gas chamber Apr. 3. Harris will be the first Calif. death row inmate to die in nearly 23 years...

TAX-EXEMPT VOTER DRIVES ON ENDANGERED LIST.
If U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas(R-Bakersfield) has his way, then the practice of PARTISAN voter registration drives being funded by tax exempt dollars will be a thing of the past. H.R. 4146 by Thomas has been nicknamed "The Cranston Bill" for obvious reasons. The bill will allow legit nonpartisan groups to continue functioning, but there will be a ban on corporate or PAC contributions. And individuals will only be able to give \$20,000 per year --- not the huge amounts that have been given in the past. Stay tuned...

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